DEWAN : Even that cannot be granted.

As regards pensionary contribution, you said that only Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 is granted as pension, while the Municipality has contributed a sum of Rs. 25,000 or Rs. 30,000. so far to the coffers of Government. I wonder whether your figures are correct. Even granting that the figures given by you are correct, it has to be remembered that, if to-day the pension is small, to-morrow it may be high. The rule on the point is that, if pension is to be given from the Government, a contribution from the Municipality is necessary. That is the rule everywhere. You may establish a provident fund, the Municipality contributing a portion and the staff another portion from their pay and on retirement you may give a consolidated sum to the employee. In any case the amount contributed cannot be given back to the Municipality.

As regards the *satram* at Oluganasseri, I do not think that there is any objection to handing it over to the Municipality. I think there is some correspondence on the subject and I shall look into the matter. The *satram* at Alleppey has been transferred to the control of the local Municipal Council.

As regards the appointment of a lady doctor, the intention of the Government is to appoint a lady doctor in every large hospital in a municipal town. We have a lady doctor at Quilon where there is a separate women's hospital. In Kottayam and Alleppey, we have appointed lady doctors. We are expecting the return of our stipendiary students within a period of five or six months. As soon as they return, more lady doctors will be appointed.

26. Needs of Shencottah.

MR. PULIKKANNU TALAVANAR (*Member, Municipal Council, Shencottah*) prayed that steps be taken to remove the increasing congestion in the town by the opening of lanes which would also tend to make scavenging more efficient. As the town is mostly surrounded by wet lands, the possibilities of expansion are limited. The plot of dry land near the P. W. D. office should be reserved as a house site as resolved by the Municipal Council. The funds at the disposal of the Council amounted only to Rs. 3,000 while the demands on it in the matter of sanitation, drainage, improvement and maintenance of roads, etc., were great. The smaller roads should be improved and handed over to the control of the Municipality, together with the funds required for their maintenance. Drains had to be constructed on either side of the Quilon-Shencottah road within the town limits. The town was subject to frequent outbreaks of epidemics owing to impure water supply. The need for the supply of good drinking water for the town had been urged at the last session of the Assembly also. A new bridge should be constructed in place of the Suppanchetti bridge which was in a damaged and dangerous condition. The bridge across the Kundar river also required to be repaired and widened. An area of at least 50 cents from the extensive premises of the local taluk office should be granted to the Municipal Council for the construction of the municipal office.

DEWAN: As regards the opening of roads, the Municipality should see what roads are necessary, whether new roads have to be constructed, which of the existing roads should be broadened, what expenditure will have to be incurred, how much money can be raised locally, and all that. Then, the Council should pass a resolution in the matter and send up the same to Government separately in each case and the matter will be considered by the Government. The Government are prepared to advance loans for such purposes.

In the case of the Perumalkulam tank, owing to a civil suit which is pending in the High Court, and on account of an injunction order issued in that case, nothing can be done until the suit is decided.

You next say that the roads and streets within the municipal area should be handed over to the Municipality. That is the opinion of the Government also. The Shencottah Municipality was asked, some time ago, whether it could take over all the minor roads within its jurisdiction. But the Council was not agreeable to the proposal.

MEMBER: The municipal fund is insufficient.

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DEWAN : Important roads such as the Shencottah-Quilon road and the Shencottah-Courtallam road will continue in the hands of the Government. Only minor roads were proposed to be handed over. Government regret that the Municipality is not agreeable to take over even the minor roads. Alleppey, Nagercoil and some other Municipalities have agreed to take over such roads and it is open to you to do likewise.

You want drains to be constructed on both sides of the Quilon-Shencottah road. No resolution on the subject seems to have been passed by the Municipality. Nevertheless, the Chief Engineer will be asked to submit an estimate in the matter.

As regards the supply of good drinking water, it is a very important question. There have been frequent outbreaks of cholera and other epidemics in Shencottah. No doubt, Shencottah stands in need of good drinking water. For the supply of pipe water, a large amount of capital expenditure may be necessary. I do not know whether the Municipality will be able to bear the whole or at least a portion of the cost. Shencottah has only a population of 15,000; and for this population alone, a sum running into lakhs cannot be spent on a water supply scheme. So, the best thing will be to sink wells. The Sanitary Commissioner has been asked to report on the subject. The Municipal Council has also been addressed in the matter. The Government are prepared to advance a loan to meet the outlay required.

With regard to the Suppanchetti bridge, an estimate is being prepared. There is no necessity for a separate bridge either here or across the Kundar. I have myself gone over the bridges and do not think they should be replaced by new bridges, which mean a good deal of expenditure.

As regards the site for the municipal office in the Cutcherry compound, according to the rules, land can be given to the Municipality under certain conditions, *e. g.*, that the site in question should be utilised for the purpose for which it is granted. If the Municipality is agreeable to this, it may apply to the Peishkar and the site will be handed over to it, if available for assignment. I believe the Government have already asked the Council to apply to the Peishkar for the land under the Land Alienation Rules.

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27. Needs of Tiruvalla.

MR. C. NARAYANA BHATTATIRI (*Member, Municipal Council, Tiruvalla*) invited the attention of the Government to the scarcity of water in the Tiruvalla town. The branch of the Manimala river, flowing along the southern and western sides of the town, dried up during summer; and the people in the neighbourhood were not only deprived of water for irrigation purposes and of facilities for water transport, but suffered great hardship by not getting good water for drinking and bathing. Owing to the paucity of bridges, through road communication to Kayankulam was impossible and the town was for a great part of the year inaccessible. He urged the need for undertaking some work which would provide a perennial supply of water in that river. The construction of a canal from Mukkanjarattu bend below the Tondara bridge in a north-westerly direction to Chirappad on the south of the mission bungalow at Tukalasseri would, without much cost, secure the object. The improvement of Brahmaswom *todu* and Mannara *todu* was necessary for the cultivation of *punja* lands. A canal could be opened from the Ketayil bend to the place known as Manippuzha Munnattummuyappinkal. The Chief Engineer had examined the proposal and the people were ready to give gratis a good portion of the lands required for the work.

There were not many good roads in the town. Most of the roads were narrow and contained steep gradients. The Muriappalam on the road from the Tiruvalla temple to Tukalasseri was in a dangerous condition and required repair or reconstruction. The approaches to the bridge were under water during the rainy season and their level should be raised. The ryots' road joining the main road should be taken up by the P. W. Department for maintenance.

Kannanchirappalam, a furlong to the south of the temple, was in a dilapidated condition. An estimate had been prepared for the work, which should be expedited, as accidents were common.

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